[TFR 50-1]

[handwritten "47"] [handwritten "1"]

Workers of the World - Unite! TOP SECRET Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Central Committee No. P31/XXXVII To Comrade Shepilov (MID).

Extract from protocol No. 31 of the TsK Presidium Session 9 August 1956.

Draft response to the US Embassy on the matter of American service members, allegedly being detained in the Soviet Union.

Approve the MID USSR presentation of the draft response to the US Embassy on the matter of American military members allegedly being detained in the Soviet Union (attached).

Publish the text of the MID USSR response in the press.

SECRETARY TsK

4- pages Distributed: 14 August 1956

[typeset along left edge "Subject to return to the 1st Sector of General Department of the TsK KPSS in no later than 7 days"] [TFR 50-2]

[Handwritten "2"]

To paragraph XXXVII of protocol No. 31

Secret

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and, referring to the Embassy's note No. 42 dated 16 July of this year, has the honor to report the following.

A thorough investigation was conducted by the appropriate Soviet agencies in connection with the US Government request stated in the referenced Embassy note. The investigation has confirmed that no American citizens of the US Air Force or US Naval aviation units are in the territory of the Soviet Union.

The results of the investigation leave no doubt that the supposition stated in the Embassy's note regarding the detention of American servicemen in the Soviet Union has no factual basis and is mistaken.

In connection with the above, the Soviet Government feels it is necessary to note that the American Government was apparently wrongly informed by individuals who are trying to hinder the development of normal relations between the USSR and the US with false information.

ap kk [TFR 50-3]

Secret copy No. 1 Prot. of Pres.TsK No.31 p.XXXVII

TsK KPSS

The US Embassy sent a note dated 16 July to the MID USSR. It refers to information received from individuals of various countries whom the Soviet Union has released from imprisonment in recent years. This note claims that the US Government has information concerning the confinement in the territory of the Soviet Union of several American citizens of the US Air Force or US Naval aviation units.

The note states that the US Government cannot identify these people by name. However, it asks the Soviet Government to inform the US Government, in detail, about all American servicemen who were at any time detained in the Soviet Union since 1 January 1949 and about whom the US Government has yet to be informed.

In conclusion, the US Government wishes the Soviet Government to investigate this matter as thoroughly as possible and to inform the US Embassy as quickly as possible of the investigation's results.

A check conducted by the Committee of State Security has established that no American citizens of the US Air Force or US Navy aviation units are in the territory of the Soviet Union. [handwritten check mark next to this paragraph]

The MID USSR believes it is advisable to send the US Embassy a reply which indicates that a thorough investigation of the matter addressed in the Embassy's note has taken place. The results show that no American citizens of the mentioned category are in the territory of the Soviet Union. Thus, the information which is being referenced in the US Embassy note is mistaken.

The draft resolution is attached.

Please review.

[Signature]

"31/2" Jul 1956 184/III

[illeg handwritten note with signature and unknown number "172044"]

[serial stamp "27574"] [TFR 50-3a]

[handwritten on reverse "pages 1-3"]